



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO MOVE FORWARD EXPEDIENTLY WITH HONOLULU'S HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM BY INVESTING IN MORE HOUSING INVENTORY OPTIONS, ENLARGING PROGRAM CONTRACTS TO TARGET GREATER NUMBERS OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PEOPLE, AND MAKING THE PLACEMENT OF HOMELESS FAMILIES A PRIORITY.

WHEREAS, homelessness is one of the most difficult problems facing our island community and, according to the 2015 and 2009 Honolulu Homeless Point-in-Time Count Reports, has increased on Oahu from 2009 to 2015 in the following ways:

- The total number of homeless people has increased 35%, from 3,638 in 2009 to 4,903 in 2015;
- The number of chronically homeless people, defined as unaccompanied adults with a disabling health or mental health condition and who have been homeless continuously for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years, has increased 60%, from 486 in 2009 to 779 in 2015; and
- The number of people in homeless families has increased 28%, from 1,826 in 2009 to 2,340 in 2015;

and

WHEREAS, although all homeless people are impacted by the simple fact of being homeless, homelessness can have a disproportionate impact on children in homeless families, including in the following ways ("Impact of Homelessness on Children," www.doorwaysva.org):

- Homeless children are sick four times as often as their classmates, with high rates of acute and chronic illnesses;
- Homeless children suffer from emotional or behavioral problems that interfere with learning at almost three times the rate of other children, including episodes of anxiety, depression and/or withdrawal; and
- Homeless children who are able to attend school have more problems learning in school compared with other children. For example, homeless children are four times as likely to have developmental delays, twice as likely to have learning disabilities, and twice as likely to repeat a grade, most often due to frequent absences and moves to new schools;



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and

WHEREAS, Housing First is a nationally recognized strategy and best practice that reverses the traditional model of requiring homeless people to first be "housing-ready" before providing them with housing, by instead putting a roof over peoples' heads first and then providing case management and wraparound services to address their other problems, such as alcoholism, drug abuse or mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Housing First has a proven record of success in other jurisdictions, including the following city, state and national successes:

- In Memphis, Tennessee, from 2012 to 2014, overall homelessness decreased by 21%, the number of homeless families decreased by 30%, and chronic homelessness among individuals decreased by 39% as the result of a program that incorporated a Housing First approach ("Community Snapshot: Memphis Tennessee," National Alliance to End Homelessness, January 28, 2014);
- In the state of Utah, chronic homelessness has dropped 91% in the past decade under Utah's Housing First initiative, decreasing from 1,932 chronically homeless individuals in 2005 to 178 chronically homeless individuals in 2015 ("Chronic homelessness in Utah Down 91% Under Decade-long Housing First Initiative," Deseret News, April 28, 2015); and
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reported in January 2014 that the number of chronically homeless persons nationwide decreased 21%, from 107,228 chronically homeless individuals in 2010 to 84,291 chronically homeless individuals in 2014 in large part because of the embrace of the Housing First concept by certain jurisdictions on all levels of government ("Housing First Policy for Addressing Homelessness Hamstrung by Funding Issues," www.prospect.org, January 27, 2015);

and

WHEREAS, Honolulu began its Housing First program in 2013 and has issued a \$2.18 million contract to the nonprofit Institute for Human Services ("IHS") to find long-term housing for up to 115 homeless people, a goal which the City is on track to meet by October 31st of this year according to Honolulu and IHS officials; and

WHEREAS, the IHS contract was possible because of a \$3 million appropriation by the City Council for the Housing First Program, and the Council has appropriated an



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additional \$5.5 million to the program for Fiscal Year 2016 in response to the Administration's request for funding to house an additional 100 homeless persons; and

WHEREAS, homeless advocates and stakeholders agree that a major obstacle to more fully implementing the Housing First program in Honolulu is a lack of affordable rental housing. As the Executive Director of the IHS has stated, "For us, advocacy [for more affordable housing] has just become a greater part of what we do now because we know that just providing emergency services is not going to solve the problem. In order for us to really make the impact, we want to have places for us to move people into." ("How Can 'Housing First' Work When the Housing Isn't There?," Honolulu Civil Beat, May 12, 2015); and

WHEREAS, the City Council, realizing that relying on the existing housing market would be inadequate, appropriated \$32 million in general obligation bond funds to increase the affordable housing inventory available for low-income and homeless people; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that Honolulu's Housing First program is succeeding and shows great promise for additional success; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the City Administration to move forward expediently with Honolulu's Housing First program by investing in more housing inventory options, enlarging program contracts to target greater numbers of chronically homeless people, and making the placement of homeless families a priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is requested to update the Council on the progress and successes of the City's Housing First program and on any hurdles encountered in the effort to implement the program by December 15, 2015; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of the Department of Community Services, the Executive Director of the Honolulu Office of Housing, and the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Development.

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CITY OF HONOLULU
RECEIVED

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

OCT 9 2015

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
C E R T I F I C A T E

RESOLUTION 15-283

Introduced: 10/09/15 By: BRANDON ELEFANTE

Committee: PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY
AND WELFARE


Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO MOVE FORWARD EXPEDIENTLY WITH HONOLULU'S HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM BY INVESTING IN MORE HOUSING INVENTORY OPTIONS, ENLARGING PROGRAM CONTRACTS TO TARGET GREATER NUMBERS OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PEOPLE, AND MAKING THE PLACEMENT OF HOMELESS FAMILIES A PRIORITY.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

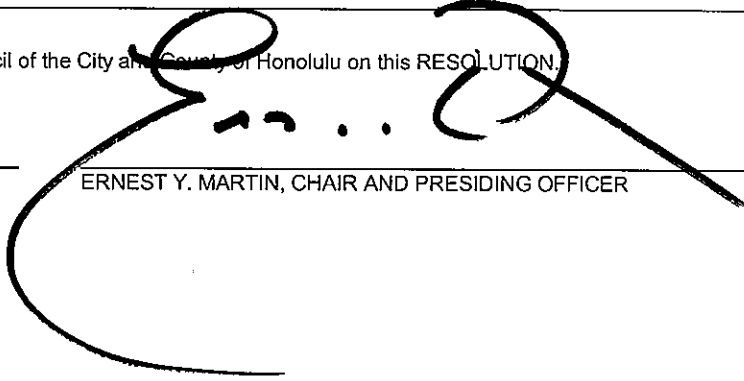
10/20/15	PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE	CR-387 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION.
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11/04/15	COUNCIL	CR-387 AND RESOLUTION 15-283 WERE ADOPTED. 8 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MARTIN, MENOR, OZAWA. 1 ABSENT: PINE.
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I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER